

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5102

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, GW

SUBJECT DRC MULTILATERAL REVIEW-FRG

REF: A. USNATO 4710

B. BONN 15245

SUMMARY. DRC ON OCTOBER 23 REVIEWED FRG FORCE PLANS FOR 1974-78 PERIOD AS PRESENTED IN FRG REPLY TO DPQ(73). CHAIRMAN CHARACTERIZED GERMAN DEFENSE PROGRAM AS CREDITABLE AND ONE WHICH COULD SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE FOR THE ALLIANCE. GERMAN REP STRESSED FRG ANTI-TANK AND AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS AND COMMENTED THAT FIGHTING IN MIDDLE EAST ILLUSTRATED IMPORTANCE OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS. DRC RECOGNIZED GERMAN EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THEIR FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. DEFENSE SPENDING. DURING OCTOBER 23 DRC REVIEW OF GERMAN 1974-78 FORCE PLANS, US (CLINARD) ASKED IF FRG PLANNED TO INCREASE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN REAL TERMS THROUGHOUT PLANNING PERIOD AND QUESTIONED USE OF 6 PERCENT PRICE DEFLATOR. FRG CONFIDENTIAL

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BUDGET EXPERT REPLIED THAT FRG DOES NOT UTILIZE A SPECIAL DEFLATOR FOR DEFENSE AND NORMALLY TRIES TO AVOID PROJECTING DEFENSE SPENDING IN REAL TERMS. AT SAME TIME, HE EMPHASIZED GERMANY WOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDS TO MAINTAIN FORCES AT

PRESENT CAPABILITIES. CHAIRMAN (HUMPHREYS) ASKED IF GERMANY HAD SPECIAL FORMULA FOR SUPPORTING A SUBSTANTIAL EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WITH RELATIVE LOW PERCENT (12) OF DEFENSE BUDGET GOING TOWARD MAJOR EQUIPMENT. BUDGET EXPERT EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FRG WAS SPENDING APPROXIMATELY SAME PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET FOR MAJOR EQUIPMENT AS ALLIES WITH SIMILAR MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS, BUT DIFFERENCE IN NATIONAL INTERPRETATION OF DEFINITIONS OF EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES WAS PROBABLY CAUSING DISTORTION IN PERCENTAGES. CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT A COMMON BASIS FOR COMPARING DEFENSE EXPENDITURES COULD BE ESTABLISHED.

2. WAR RESERVES. US FOLLOWED UP CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS, TO EFFECT THAT STOCK SHORTAGES EXISTED IN CRITICAL AREAS IN ALL THREE SERVICES (WITH ARMY WAR RESERVES BEING ESPECIALLY DEFICIENT), BY ASKING IF WRM IMPROVEMENTS WERE PLANNED. FRG SAID IMPROVEMENTS WERE BEING STUDIED AND THAT LACK OF FUNDS WAS RESTRICTING GERMAN WRM EFFORTS.

3. RESTRUCTURING. FRG REP (GEN FREVERT-NIEDERMEIN, DEFENSE COUNSELOR, FRGNATO) REPORTED THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON PLANS TO RESTRUCTURE GERMAN FORCES AS NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN. HE PROMISED FULL CONSULTATION WITH NATO.

4. AIRCRAFT IMPROVEMENTS. GERMAN AIR FORCE EXPERT CLAIMED THAT AIR CRAFT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WILL RESULT IN BEST POSSIBLE BALANCE FOR GERMAN AF: F-4, ALPHA JET, AND MRCA. IN RESPONSE TO US QUERY ON WHY RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT IN CURRENT INVENTORY COULD NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEET NATO FORCE GOALS, AIR FORCE EXPERT EMPHASIZED THAT RF-4E SQUADRON OF 15 WAS NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED TO SQUADRON IN PEACETIME AND WAS NOT SYNONYMOUS WITH NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE ON BASE THAT WOULD BE USED TO COMPENSATE FOR ATTENTION.

5. NAVAL IMPROVEMENTS. IN REPLY TO US QUESTION ON REPLACEMENT PLANS FOR OPEN-OCEAN NAVY, GERMAN NAVAL EXPERT SAID FRG IS PARTICIPATING IN NATO NAVAL ARMAMENTS PROJECT GROUP ON A NATO CONFIDENTIAL

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FRGATE FOR THE 1970'S AND THAT FRG EXPECTS TO MAKE A DECISION NEXT YEAR ON A MULTIPURPOSE FRIGATE, EQUIPPED WITH ASW HELICOPTER, FOR USE IN NORTH SEA.

6. ANTI-TANK IMPROVEMENTS AND SHELTER PROGRAM. DRC, INCLUDING US, LAUDED OUTSTANDING FRG ANTI-TANK(AT) IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. US NOTED THAT TESTS AND STUDIES CONCERNING AT HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN POSITIVE AND ASKED IF FRG INTENDED TO PROCURE AN AT HELICOPTER. FRG ARMY EXPERT STATED THAT AT HELICOPTER STILL UNDER STUDY, BUT FRG EXPECTS TO PROCURE 150 TO 200 BY 1980. ON SHELTERS, CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT CONSTRUCTION OF 320 SHELTERS WILL BE COMPLETED BY END-1973; THE REMAINING 84 NEEDED TO COMPLETE SHELTERING OF 70 PERCENT OF FRG TACTICAL AIRCRAFT ARE EXPECTED

TO BE COMPLETED BY EARLY 1975. US STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING SHELTERS WITH NATIONAL FUNDS FOR AIRCRAFT NOT COVERED BY NATO FUNDED SHELTER PROGRAM. UK ASKED IF FRG SUPPORTED CONCEPT OF SHELTERING 100 PERCENT OF ITS AIRCRAFT. FRG AFFIRMED THAT IT STILL PLANNED TO SHELTER ALL COMBAT AIRCRAFT, BUT FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS WERE PREVENTING CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONALLY FUNDED SHELTER PROGRAM. IN PREPARED STATEMENT, GERMAN REP CONCLUDED MULTILATERAL REVIEW BY STRESSING FRG'S RESPONSIVENESS TO AD-70 STUDY, ESPECIALLY FRG'S AT AND AIRCRAFT MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS. HE ADDED FRG IS BUYING MODERN, EXPENSIVE AIRCRAFT AND INTENDS TO PROVIDE NECESSARY SHELTERS FOR THESE AIRCRAFT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT MIDDLE EAST FIGHTING HAS DEMONSTRATED IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF AT WEAPONS AND SHELTERS FOR SURVIVABILITY OF CONVENTIONAL FORCES.

7. COMMENT. DISCUSSION WITH AMEMBASSY BONN OFFICIALS WAS MOST HELPFUL IN PREPARING FOR NATO'S MULTILATERAL REVIEW OF FRG FORCE PLANS. END COMMENT.
RUMSFELD

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